(b) and (c) No, Sir. However, Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF) has requested Mother Dairy, Delhi which is subsidiary of NDDB to purchase skimmed milk powder and butter. KMF has offered skimmed milk powder for sale during the current year to Delhi Milk Scheme, West Bengal Milk Federation, West Bengal Government Central Dairy and Metro Dairy, Kolkatta.

(d) and (e) A mega dairy of six lakh litres capacity per day has already been set up in Bangalore by the Bangalore Urban and Rural District Cooperative Milk Producers' Union. A 30 Metric Tonnes per day milk powder plant is also under construction at Bangalore. In addition to these various District Cooperative Milk Unions in Karnataka have proposed augmentation of their processing capacity to the tune of 5 lakh litres per day.

Improving the Lot of Farmers

1993. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether certain farmers' organisations have decided to launch struggle, seeking solution to the problems faced by the farming community;

(b) whether, the implementation of the directives of the World Trade Organisation and the World Bank, the plight of farmers has worsened; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to improve the lot of farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV) : (a) Farmers organizations often raise issues regarding problems faced by the farming community and seek redressal to improve their lot.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Various schemes are being implemented by the Government of India and the State Governments for economic and social uplift of farmers and rural communities. For the development of agriculture and allied activities, recent initiatives taken by the Government include introduction of National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS), adoption of regionally differentiated strategy through Macro Management Scheme, creation of a Watershed Development Fund with a corpus of Rs. 200 crore, launching of a Technology Mission for Cotton, launching of Technology Mission for integrated Development of Horticulture in North Eastern States, introduction of a Scheme for Seed Crop Insurance, establishment of a Seed Bank, enhancing availability of farm credit and Kisan Credit Cards.

introduciton of a subsidy linked credit scheme for construction/modernization and expansion of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce, expansion of the corpus of the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund, launching of a Market Information Network and promotion of value addition in agriculture through excise exemption and other interventions.

In order to protect the interests of farmers, the Government has set up mechanism for monitoring of agricultural imports and has taken various steps comprising tariff enhancement, imposition of anti-dumping and countervailing duties etc. During the year 2001-02, the import duty has been enhanced on several items. The new Exim Policy provides sufficient safeguards against unintended imports and outline promotional measures to boost exports.

Setting up of New Fertilizer Plants in NER

1994. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of financial allocations made for setting up of new fertilizer plants in NER, during the last three years; and

(b) the total amount released and spent on each plant in the region, during that period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) and (b) No new major fertilizer plants have been set up in the North Eastern Region (NER) during the last three years. However, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC), a Pulbic Sector Undertaking under the administrative control of Department of Fertilizers is at present implementing a major revamp of its plants at Namrup in Assam, with budgetary support from the Government. For implementing this project, the Government has so far allocated and released a total budgetary support of Rs. 211.69 crore to HFC (Rs. 30.00 crore in 98-99, Rs. 44.69 crore in 99-2000, Rs. 57.00 crore in 2000-01 and Rs. 80.00 crore in 2001-02). The actual cumulative expenditure incurred by HFC on the Namrup Revamp Project as in November 2001 was Rs. 186.11 crore.

Prevention of Mixing of Methanol and Arrack

1995. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government would direct the authorities to add more bitterness in methanol to prevent mixing of methanol with country arrack, resulting in deaths; and